**Jackies Butte Rehab Protection Electric Fence**
**Environmental Assessment**
**EA # OR-030-03-014**

| | |
|---|---|
| BLM OFFICE: | Vale District, Jordan Resource Area |
| PROPOSED ACTION: | Construct an electric fence to protect the Jackies Butte fire rehabilitation seeding within the Dry Creek Native Pasture. |
| LOCATION: | Jackies Butte Allotment, Dry Creek Native Pasture, T. 33 S., R. 42 E., Sec. 5, 8, 18, 19; T. 33 S., R. 42 E., Sec. 14, 23, 26, 35; T. 34 S., R. 42 E., Sec. 1, 2; T. 34 S., R. 43 E., Sec. 6; T. 33 S., R. 43 E., Sec. 31. |
| APPLICANT: | Jackies Butte Permittees |

## CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plans:
Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, (SEORMP/EIS), 2002

These plans have been reviewed to confirm that the proposed action conforms with land use plan direction and decisions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

## BACKGROUND

On August 9, 2001 the Jackies Butte Fire (N157) burned 67,052 acres of public land of which 41,107 acres was within the Dry Creek Native Pasture. The total burned area within the pasture is excluded from grazing by a temporary electric fence. Three areas in the burned portion of the pasture were seeded and also excluded from livestock grazing. The pasture is now in its second year of rest and all of the burned areas that were not seeded have recovered; however, as of the date of this analysis, it is too early to determine if seeded areas will be able to withstand grazing after "seed ripe" (i.e. the end of the second growing season). Thus, it is too early to commit to returning grazing to the seeded areas after the growing season. In the event that the seeded areas are not opened to grazing after the second full growing season, the permittees have requested authorization to temporarily fence the seeded areas from the remaining portion of the pasture. This would allow them to graze their cattle on the portions of the pasture that have fully recovered from the fire and continue to protect the seeded areas.

It may be subsequently determined that the seedings are developed enough to withstand grazing, and if this happens the proposed fences would not be needed and this project would be abandoned.

## NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the temporary electric fence is to exclude cattle use, if necessary, from three seeded areas until the seeded vegetation has recovered sufficiently to allow grazing. The temporary electric fence would also allow cattle grazing to occur in the remainder of the Dry Creek Native Pasture.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

### A. Alternative I: Proposed Action

The location of the proposed project (which consists of two sections of fence) is within the Dry Creek Native Pasture of the Jackies Butte Allotment (Map 1). The proposed action is to build two sections of two-three strand temporary electric fence. The first section would enclose one seeded area located directly southwest of Hardin Springs. This section would be approximately 5 miles in length (Map 2). The second section would enclose two seeded areas which border the Indian Fort Pasture. This section would be approximately 10 miles in length (see Map 2). The fence would be flagged in order to make it visible to big game and wild horses residing within the project area.

These electric fences would have one-two strands of high shock cable which has a breaking strength of 500 pounds. The high shock cable wire(s) would be placed below the top wire with the bottom wire being at least 16 inches off the ground to allow for pronghorn passage. The use of the high shock cable on the lower section of the fence would allow breakage in the case of a wild horse/wildlife being entangle thus reducing risks to animals. The top wire would be barbed wire no higher than 42 inches, which would aid in keeping the flags from blowing to the posts. The barbed wire adds strength and stability to the fence and resembles the permanent fences in the area. The mere resemblance of a permanent fence seems to deter wild horses and livestock, lessening the pressure put on the temporary fences.

The proposed project would be constructed prior to cattle turnout to protect the seeded areas from grazing. The operators would construct the temporary fence and be responsible for all fence maintenance. The fence would be up for at least one grazing season which is defined as beginning in April and extending through October. Once the temporary electric fence is installed, cattle would be allowed to graze in the remainder of the Dry Creek Native Pasture from 7/16 until utilization levels are met. The permittees would remove the fence once the decision has been made that the seeded areas have recovered adequately.

### B. Alternative II: No Action

The temporary electric fence would not be constructed and livestock would be excluded from the entire pasture until the seeded areas become well established.

## AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Vegetation

Historically, the entire seeded area supported a Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentate ssp.wyomingensis*) overstory with a bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*)/ Sandbergs bluegrass (*Poa secunda*) and bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*) understory. Frequent fire occurrence (every 3.4 years in the Jackies Butte Fire area) and historic grazing practices have resulted in the removal of Wyoming big sagebrush, and perennial grass species such as bluebunch wheatgrass and Sandbergs bluegrass. During the fall of 2001 three areas were seeded within the Dry Creek Native Pasture with the following adaptive non-native species seed mix: Crested Wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), Russian Wildrye (*Elymus junceus*), Apar Lewis Flax, White Yarrow, and Wyoming Big Sagebrush. The project site is now dominated by crested wheatgrass, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), clasping pepperweed (*Lepidium perfoliatum*), tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*). Very little bluebunch wheatgrass and Sandberg's Bluegrass now exist.

### 2. Soils

Soils within the areas to be fenced consists of silty-loams, shallow, stoney (Unit 75) or very stoney (Unit S75) and are well drained over basalt, rhyolite or welded tuff. Typically, these soils occur in gently undulating to rolling lava plateaus and on some of the steeper faulted and dissected terrain (3-12% slopes). The effect rooting depth on these soils is shallow to moderately deep (11-15 inches) and is limited primarily by parent material.

Soils identified in the area were surveyed and described in Oregon's Long Range Requirements for Water 1969, Appendix I-11, Owyhee Drainage Basin. The small project area consists of the S75/2-3 soil mapping unit from this fourth-order soil survey, while the larger area consists of mainly 75/2-3 with minor amounts of S75/2-3. The two units incorporate two classification units and have one slope group that ranges between 3-12 percent.

Unit 75/2-3
Unit 75 soils, 3-12 percent slopes.

Unit S75/2-3
Unit S75 soils, 3-12 percent slopes.

Classification Unit 75
Soils are loamy, shallow, very stony, well drained soils over basalt, rhyolite, or welded tuff.. They occur on gently undulating to rolling lava plateaus with some very steep faulted and dissected terrain. Elevations range from 4,000 to 6,000 feet. Average annual precipitation is on the low side of the 8 to 11 inch range, and mean annual air temperature centers around 47 degrees F. The soil profile by depth consist of very stony silt loam, stony loam, and stony silt loam over basalt bedrock.

Classification Unit S75
Soils are shallow, loamy, well drained, extremely stony soils over basalt, rhyolite, or welded tuff. They occur on gently undulating to rolling lava plateaus with some very steep faulted and dissected terrain. Soils occur at elevations from 3,500 to 6,500 feet. Average annual precipitation is on the low side of the 8 to 11 inch range, and mean annual air temperature centers around 47 degrees F. The soil profile by depth consist of extremely stony silt loam, and extremely stony silty clay loam over fractured basalt bedrock.

**3. Watershed**

Within the seeded areas, portions of numerous ephemeral flowing channels drain into intermittent flowing Dry Creek which drains into Blevens Reservoir and/or Rock House Reservoir. The only reliable perennial water in the area is at Hardin Spring directly adjacent to one of the project sites. In most years Dry Creek contains seasonal waters in a series of small elongated pools next to the project areas, however this year Dry Creek is totally dry.

The Jackies Butte Allotment lies within the 8-10 inch precipitation zone yet could receive wide variations from drought to wet years ranging from as low as 3 to as high as 12 inches.

**4. Air Quality**

Air quality in the project area is designated as a Class II, which means that no exceedence of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards has been monitored in the planning area..

**5. Noxious Weeds**

Scotch thistle (Onopordum acanthium), an aggressive biennial, exists on about 300 acres approximately 4 mile south, southeast of the southern most fence section. The population has about 2,500 individual plants and was chemically treated during the spring of 2000. There are no known noxious weed areas in the rest of the Dry Creek Native Pasture; however, whitetop (*Draba sp.*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomerata*) and medusahead wildrye (*Taineatherum asperum*) are found in the general area.

**6. Livestock**

The Jackies Butte Allotment (Community Allotment) has seven permittees and is used in a deferred-rotation grazing system. The Jackies Butte Allotment contains 240,244 acres, 65,249 acres lie within the Dry Creek Native Pasture. About 8,768 acres would be excluded from grazing if the proposed fences are constructed. The allotment normally supports 14,274 AUMs, with an average pasture stocking rate at 16.8 acres per AUM.

The Corbin Creek Pipeline is currently under construction and will be a second source of reliable water with in the Dry Creek Native Pasture when completed.

## 7. Wildlife

Rangelands in the vicinity of Jackies Butte and extending to the north for approximately 25 miles constitute the most extensive block of fragmented sagebrush steppe in the Jordan Resource Area. The burn, which was in mid to low elevation Wyoming sagebrush habitat, has added to the cumulative losses of shrub steppe habitat that have been ongoing for the last 10 years or more. Species present or formerly present in the Jackies Butte fire and Jordan Creek fire burn areas include the following:

*Game species* - mule deer, pronghorn, greater sage grouse
Mule deer habitat is generally limited and confined to draws within close proximity to irrigated farmlands where they can find green forage. Pronghorn use the entire area on a year long basis and they tend to concentrate in winter herds at the west end of the burned area. One greater sage grouse lek (The Basin, GIS_ID #423, T33S R41E sec 19 SWSW) is located in the western end of the unit, it is probable that some nesting and wintering activity was occurring prior to the burn.

*Non-game species* - coyote, badger, Townsend's ground-squirrel, chipmunk, western whiptail lizard, sagebrush lizard, gopher snake, desert horned lizard, and western rattlesnake, horned lark, meadow lark, brewers sparrow, raven, red-tailed hawk, northern harrier, and burrowing owl.

## 8. Threatened or Endangered Plants and Animals

There are no wildlife or plant species proposed or listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the proposed project areas, so there will be no requirement to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding Section 7 of the ESA. There are no suspected special status plant or animal species in the project area.

## 9. Recreation and Visual Resources

Dispersed outdoor recreation in the proposed project area consists primarily of hunting of upland birds and big game animals. Some dispersed general sightseeing and day hiking may occur. The project is within a visual resource management class IV area, with low visual sensitivity and a low (class C) scenic quality rating.

## 10. Cultural Resources

Pre-European contact Native American peoples living in southeastern Oregon were entirely dependent upon the locally available food resources. As climatic fluctuations created population and habitat changes in the plant and animal communities, humans adjusted their hunting and gathering areas and their technology accordingly. The Native people of the Great Basin, who practiced the ancestral lifeways into the 19th century, were heirs to an extremely ancient cultural tradition with a technology both effective and efficient, with many multi-functional, light-weight and expendable tools.

Exploration into this area during the Historic period began with the expeditions of John Jacob Aster, after he heard the stories from the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806. The first written observations of southeastern Oregon can be found in journals kept by men involved in the expansion of fir trapping territory.

Trapping occurred along the major and minor tributaries of the Owyhee River. The era of the fur trade provided the basis for American families to travel west.

Prehistoric and historic use of southeastern Oregon is documented by the archaeological record. Several archaeological excavations have generated information that establishes long-term human occupation in Malheur and Harney Counties. Excavations at five stratified spring sites indicate that prehistoric people occupied southeast Oregon from about 11,000 to 150 years ago. An excavation at the Dirty Shame rockshelter, on a tributary of the Owyhee River, documented occupation of the shelter from 9500 to 400 years ago.

In the Jackies Butte area, numerous archaeological surveys have been conducted as the result of past fire activity. Duane Marti of the BLM inventoried a 52,000 acre burn known as the 1983 Indian Fort Fire. Three sites and four isolated finds were located during the survey. In 1995, Alice Bronsdon of the BLM inventoried a 13,272 acre burn, also known as the Indian Fort Fire. No cultural materials were recorded. In 1995, Alice Bronsdon conducted an inventory of a 16,000 acre burn known as the Battle Creek Fire. No cultural materials were located during the inventory. Marnie Wilson of the BLM surveyed an 18,158 acre burn known as the White Mule Fire. Three isolated finds were recorded.

A number of project driven archaeological surveys have been conducted in the Jackies Butte area. In 1990, Angel Dawson of the BLM conducted a survey for the Tree Spring Pipeline. No cultural materials were located. Diane Pritchard of the BLM conducted an inventory in 1991as part of a right-of-way issuance for the Grassy Butte Remote Area Weather Station. No cultural materials were located during the survey. The Garlow Butte Community Pit was inventoried by Natalie Sudman of the BLM in 1992. A total of 21.1 acres were surveyed, and no cultural materials were located. In 1994, Natalie Sudman conducted an inventory for the Corbin Creek Well. No cultural resources were recorded.

Natalie Sudman conducted an inventory of the proposed route for the Jackies Butte Rehab Protection Electric Fence in April 2003 (J-03-16). Three prehistoric sites and two isolates were recorded. The sites are considered not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. They are located on deflated and eroding soils, and do not contain stratified buried cultural deposits. They are unlikely to yield information important in the prehistory of the area.

**11. Wilderness Study Area / ACECs**

There are no Wilderness Study Areas or ACECs with in the project area.

**12. Wild Horses and Herd Management Area**

The proposed action lies within the Jackies Butte herd Management Area (HMA). The Jackies Butte Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA) is located directly south of Rome, Oregon. There is sufficient forage and water available within the Dry Creek Native Pasture to sustain the current horse population in the HMA. Recent monitoring depicts physical condition as a 5 (moderate flesh condition) according to the Henneke Scale.

**13. Other Mandatory Elements**

The following mandatory elements are either not present or would not be affected by the proposed action or alternatives:

| | Affected | |
|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No |
| Air Quality | | X |
| Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns | | X |
| Cultural Resources | X (no adverse effects) | |
| Prime and Unique Farmlands | | X |
| Floodplains | | X |
| Native American Religious Concerns | | X |
| Threatened and Endangered Species | | X |
| Hazardous and Solid Wastes | | X |
| Ground Water Quality | | X |
| Surface Water Quality | | X |
| Wetlands and Riparian Zones | | X |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers | | X |
| Wilderness | | X |
| Invasive and Nonnative Species | | X |
| Environmental Justice | | X |
| Adverse Energy Impact | | X |

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

**A.** Alternative I: Proposed Action

**1. Vegetation**

Protection of the seeded areas would provide an opportunity to establish a more stable perennial vegetal cover consisting of adapted non-native seed mixes and Wyoming big sagebrush. Site specifically adapted perennial grasses (predominantly Siberian and Fairway varieties) would replace annuals, stabilize watersheds, reduce the potential for noxious weed invasion and create habitat diversity. Most importantly, the non-native mix would replace more flammable annuals thereby potentially reducing the spread of wildfire, frequency of wildfire and the size of future burns.

Establishment of sagebrush would provide vegetative diversity and structure to the community that has been lost to the cumulative effect of frequent wildfire and historical grazing practices. Additionally, sagebrush would establish a deep-rooted shrub component in the vegetal community and increase effective precipitation by capturing/holding snow during the winter months.

Some vegetation trampling would occur during fence construction along the fence lines. Minimal trampling would also occur due to cattle trailing along the fence lines. This disturbance is not expected to be substantial because of the distance from water.

**2. Soils**

There would be no effect on soils.

**3. Watershed**

Added protection to the seeded areas would decrease soil erosion rates as perennial species establish on the site over time. The annual species which currently inhabit the area provide much less protection of the soil surface than would perennial species. Under this alternative, erosion rates would decrease further than under the no action alternative due to establishment of perennial species. Perennial vegetation would reduce soil erosion by providing improved protection of the soil surface, and by reducing the frequency of wildfire.

**4. Air Quality**

The air pollutant of most concern on BLM administered land is particulate matter, which may originate from windblown dust. The proposed action would allow the seeded area more growing time before grazing occurred. This would result in more ground cover and less disturbance with in the seeded area, which would result in less windblown dust.

**5. Noxious Weeds**

No noxious weeds are known to exist within the immediate project location. There will be very little ground disturbance while installing the temporary electric fence. Therefore, there is very little risk of new noxious weeds becoming established in the Dry Creek Native Pasture as a result of project implementation.

**6. Livestock Grazing**

Implementation of this project would provide a more dependable and stable forage base in the Jackies Butte Allotment. The Dry Creek Native Pasture accounts for approximately one third of the total allotment acres, therefore making it vital to the successful completion of the grazing season. It would also lessen the financial affect of the drought on the permittees. Grazing use within the pasture would remain the same as in years before. Once the upland utilization rates reach a maximum of 50%, the cattle would be removed from the pasture.

**7. Wildlife**

The fence construction phase of the project would result in big game and other species temporarily vacating the area. Theses effects are considered to be short term and insignificant

.

New temporary fence construction may be expected to potentially cause some additional wildlife collisions, mortalities, and or injuries. Flagging would be expected to reduce the potential for these kinds of adverse impacts to big game species. The overall impacts to wildlife would not be considered significant.

**8. Recreation and Visual Resources**

Impacts to dispersed recreation activities would be insignificant. Should fence building activities occur during game hunting seasons, any wildlife close to the activities would be temporarily disturbed.

Surface impacts of the proposed action efforts do not exceed management objectives for visual resource class IV. Short term visual impacts of the fences would occur.

**9. Cultural Resources**

The areas proposed for fencing would be inventoried for cultural and paleontologic resources prior to ground disturbing activities. Class III survey methods would be used in areas with a high probability for yielding cultural resources. Cultural resources discovered during the survey, and those previously recorded, would be flagged, recorded and avoided as appropriate. If paleontologic resources are located during the survey, depending on the nature and extent of the fossil locality, the area would either be flagged and avoided during construction activities or the fossils would be recovered prior to construction activities.

**10. Wild Horses and Herd Management Area**

Horses in the Dry Creek Native pasture should not be affected by the temporary electric fences as the fences are located in areas that do not impede natural travel patterns. The fences also do not keep horses from feed or water. Hardin Spring is the only permanent reliable water source this year and the horses will be watering there. However, the fence located southwest of the spring will not impede the use of the spring by the horses.

**B. Alternative II- No Action**

Under this alternative, the temporary electric fence would not be constructed and livestock would be excluded from the entire pasture for at least two growing seasons.

**1. Vegetation**

There would be no affect on the vegetation.

**2. Soils**

Soils would remain unchanged.

**3. Air Quality**

Air quality is not affected.

**4. Noxious Weeds**

No noxious weeds would be introduced in the Dry Creek Native Pasture.

**5. Livestock Grazing**

The Dry Creek Native Pasture would not be available to cattle grazing. Approximately one third of the total

allotment acres and therefore one third of the available AUMs would not be available to livestock grazing. This would have a substantial, negative financial impact on the permittees. Livestock grazing utilization levels in other pastures of the Jackies Butte Allotment would increase. The permittees would be forced to sell cattle or purchase hay to feed them if conditions do not allow them to graze for the whole season.

**6. Wildlife**
Impacts described under the proposed action would be avoided completely.

**7. Recreation and Visual Resources**
Impacts to dispersed recreation activities would remain the same as it is now.

**8. Cultural Resources**
There would be no impacts to cultural resources under this alternative.

**9. Wild Horses and Herd Management Area**
There would be no impacts to the wild horse herd.

## MITIGATION MEASURES AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Mitigation measures would consist of cattle removal if upland utilization rates reach a maximum of 50%. At no time are cattle allowed in the seeded areas until plants reach a state where grazing will not adversely impact them. The electric fence would be flagged to make it visible to wild horses and wildlife to reduce the chance of entanglement. "Break away cable" would be used to reduce the probability of injury in the unlikely event that animals do become entangled. A condition of the Cooperative Agreement would read: "If the electric fence fails for whatever reason and cattle get into the seeded areas, cattle must be removed immediately and the fence repaired immediately".

## PERMITTEES CONSULTED

Jesse and Pam White, Livestock Permittee
Ed and Jack Dowell, Livestock Permittee
Cliff Gunderson, Livestock Permittee
Greg Grenke, Livestock Permittee
Ken Matteri, Livestock Permittee
Robert Corbari, Livestock Permittee

## CONGRESSIONAL FIELD REPRESENTATIVES CONSULTED

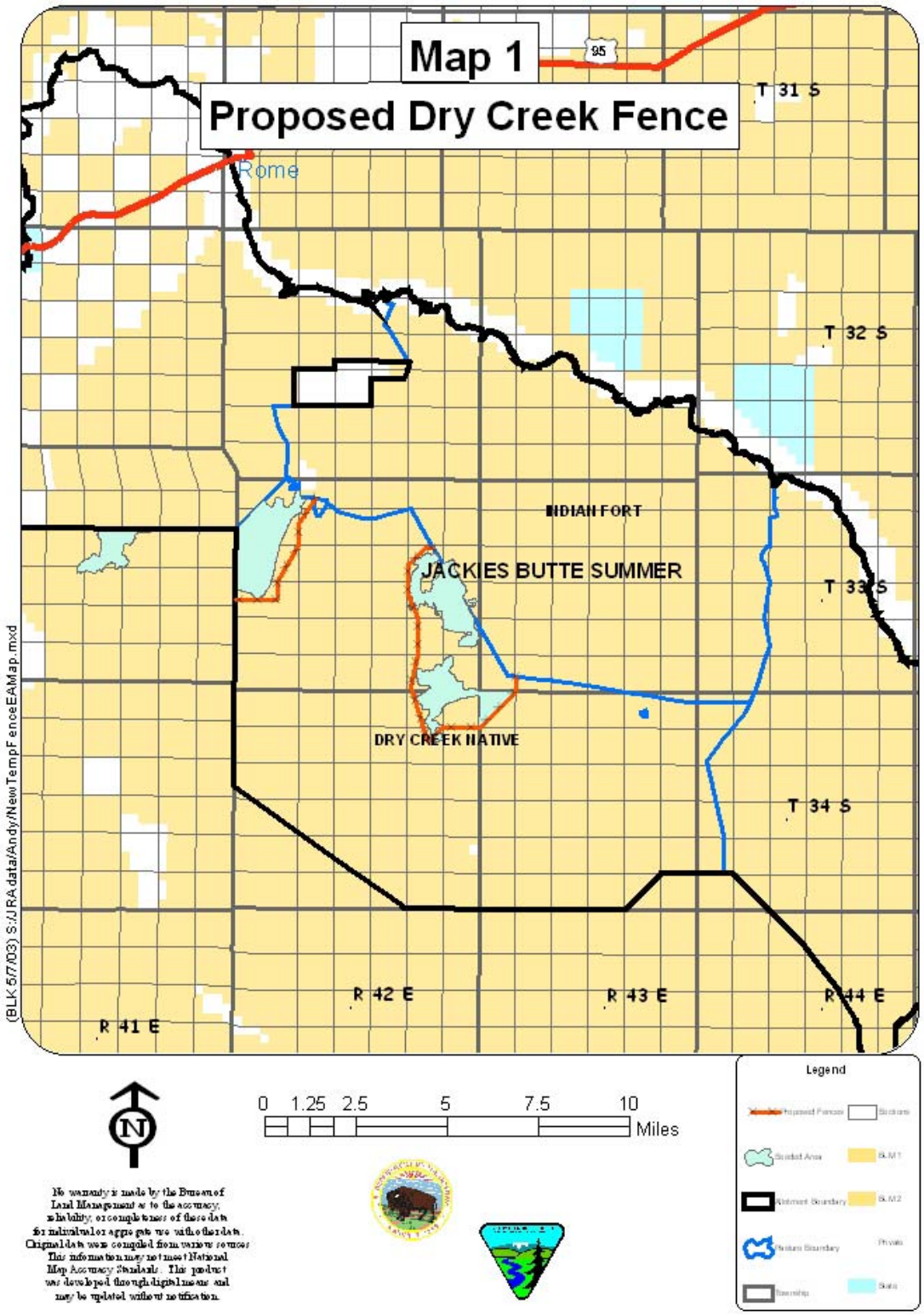
Colby Marshal, Field Rep. for Congressman Walden
Larry Bartee, Field Rep. for Senator Smith
Wayne Kinney, Field Rep. for Senator Wyden

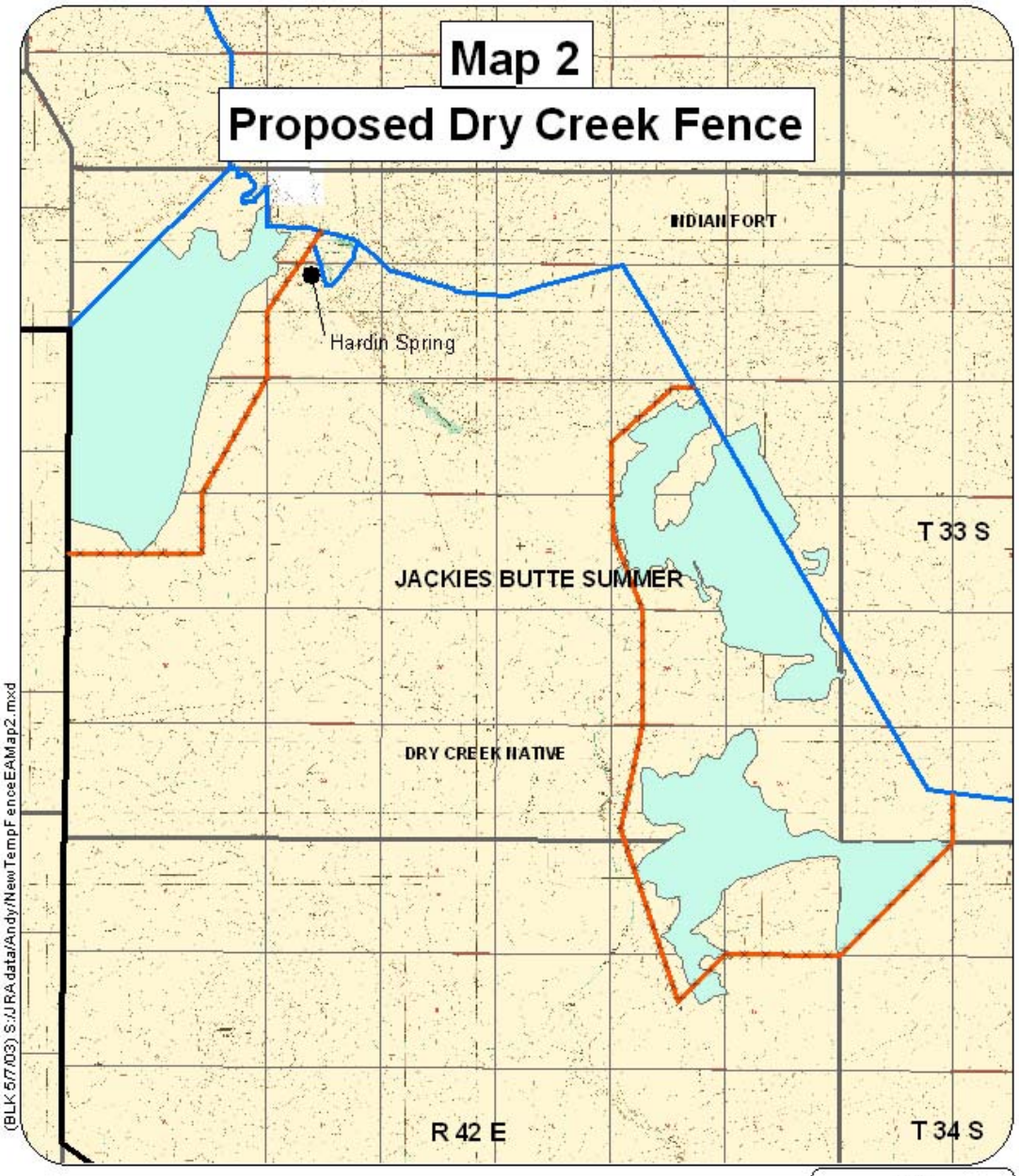
**INTERESTED PUBLICS CONSULTED**

Gene Bray
Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Western Watershed Project
Katie Fite
Bill Marlett, Oregon Natural Desert Association
Peter Lacy, Oregon Natural Desert Association
Jesse and Pam White
National Mustang Association
Bennie Banks, Kiger Mesteno Association
National Wild Horse Association
Kathryn Cushman, WHOA
John Bishop
Dan Joyce, Malheur County Commissioner
Sandee Force, Pacific Wild Horse Club
Honorable Russ Hursh, Malheur County Judge
Andrea Lococo, The Fund For Animals, Inc.
Lee Bernstein, Associated Humane Society
John A. Hoyt, The Humane Society Of The United States
Terry Jay, Committee For The Preservation Of Wild Horses
Karen Sussman, ISPMB
Priscilla Feral, Friends Of Animals Inc.
Alan Berger, Animal Protection Institute

**BLM STAFF SPECIALISTS**

Andy Bumgarner, Rangeland Management Specialist
Jim Johnson, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
Jon Sadowski, Wildlife Biologist/T & E Animals
Natalie Sudman , Archaeologist
Jean Findley, Botanist
Jack Wenderoth, Soil/Air/Water
Tom Christensen, Recreation/Wilderness


Map 1
Proposed Dry Creek Fence
95
Rome
T 31 S
T 32 S
T 33 S
T 34 S
INDIAN FORT
JACKIES BUTTE SUMMER
DRY CREEK NATIVE
R 41 E
R 42 E
R 43 E
R 44 E
(BLK 5/7/03) S:\JRA data\Andy\NewTempFenceEAMap.mxd
N
0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10
Miles
Legend
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.


Map 2
Proposed Dry Creek Fence
INDIAN FORT
Hardin Spring
T 33 S
JACKIES BUTTE SUMMER
DRY CREEK NATIVE
R 42 E
T 34 S
(BLK 5/7/03) S:\JRA data\Andy\NewTempFenceEAMap2.mxd
N
0 0.3750.75 1.5 2.25 3
Miles
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.
Legend
Proposed Fences
Sections
Grazed Area
BLM1
Allotment Boundary
BLM2
Township
Private
Nation Boundary
State

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS**

I have reviewed EA, OR-030-03-014 and determined that the proposed action with mitigating measures will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required.

My rational for this finding of no significant impacts is as follows: Impacts from the temporary fence are short term, with no long term impacts expected. Some vegetation along the 15 miles of fence may get trampled by livestock walking the fence but the trampled vegetation would be expected to recover fully within two years of fence removal. Disruptions in wildlife movements would be minor and short lived. Wild horse travel patterns and access to water and forage would not be disturbed. Potential hazards of wildlife and wild horses hitting the fence are also minor and mitigated by flagging the fence and the type of cable used.

Approving this fence would allow the operators to graze cattle in the recovered unseeded portion of the pasture without causing any long-term significant impacts. The benefits to the permittees from not having to sell cattle or buy alternate feed, or further disrupt their grazing operations are substantial. Allowing this project is a reasonable action that protects the seeded areas in the Dry Creek Native Pasture, while reducing undue financial impacts on the permittees. The area has been fully inventoried for cultural and T&E species and the conclusions show that this fence threatens neither. No impacts were identified that would significantly affect any aspect of the human environment. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the land use plan.

/s/ Jerry L. Taylor — 5/6/2003

Jerry L. Taylor — Date
Field Manager, Jordan Resource Area